(c) whether Government are contemplating to send a Central team to Rajkot, Kutch and other Districts in order to assess the situation there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1999-2000, entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 121.05 crore and assistance of Rs. 54.58 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) were released. Two quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF for 2000-01 amounting to Rs. 87.42 crore have also been released. The Department of Drinking Water Supply has relesed Rs. 35.42 crore to Gujarat under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the Central Ground Water Board has handed over 167 wells to the State Government.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas in January, 2000 for assessment of the situation in the wake of drought. Official from the Department of Drinking Water Supply recently visited Gujarat during 2000-01 to discuss issues related to drinking water in the State special reference to drought conditions prevailing in the State.

Shortage of Water in Chirrapunji

4141. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY :

SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that people at Chirrapunji are struggling for water ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this situation at a place which is considered to be the wettest place in the world; and

(c) whether Government are making any action plan in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : (a) No, Sir. However, the present supply level is inadequate.

(b) The existing schemes are unable to meet the present water demand. Further, the geological features in and around Chirrapunji are not favourable for retention of rainwater resulting in unfavourable ground water condition. The run off drains down to Bangladesh due to very steep gradiant all-around.

(c) The Government of Meghalaya have launched a new water supply scheme, to augment the water supply, which is under execution.